

Message Text

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SUBJECT: IZVESTIY'S ARTICLE ON PETERSON CASE

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FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF JUNE 12
IZVESTIY ARTICLE ON PETERSON CASE. BEGIN TEXT.

"FOR WHOSE BENEFIT?" BY YULIAN SEMENOV.

THIS PHRASE WAS FORMULATED BY CASSIAN LONGIN RAVILLA, A
LAWYER OF ANCIENT ROME. TURNING TO THE JUDGES, HE SAID:
"WHEN YOU CAN GIVE A TRUE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION, YOU
WILL KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE CRIMINAL."

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A LAWYER TO ANSWER THE QUESTION:
TO WHOSE ADVANTAGE IS THE PRESENT CAMPAIGN ABOUT "SOVIET
ESPIONAGE" WHICH HAS BEEN UNLEASHED IN THE U.S.?

TRULY, "SLANDERERS ARE MORE HONORED THAN SERPENTS IN
HELL*" WHAT HORRORS ARE DESCRIBED IN THE PAGES OF THE
AMERICAN PRESS BY PRESCRIPTION OF THE CIA AND FBI* WHAT
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VARIATIONS ON THEMES ARE PLAYED* BUT NOWHERE IN THE
AMERICAN PRESS WILL YOU FIND A WORD ABOUT A TOPIC OF
SURPASSING INTEREST, A TOPIC -- IN ITS EXTERNAL EXPRES-
SION -- OF A TRULY DETECTIVE NATURE WHICH, IN OUR
OPINION, DESERVES TO BE DESCRIBED.

THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF THE MATTER. IMAGINE A YOUNG DIP-

LOMAT, A SMILING GIRL, WITH A KNOWLEDGE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES WHO WORKS AS A VICE-CONSUL FOR ONE OF THE GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED IN MOSCOW.

IMAGINE THIS ATTRACTIVE GIRL ONE EVENING, AS SHE GETS INTO A CAR AND DRIVES TO THE CENTER OF THE CITY. WHAT WAS OUR "HEROINE" GOING TO DO THERE? VISIT THE THEATER? FRIENDS? NO. THE VICE-CONSUL STOPPED THE CAR IN A DIMLY LIGHTED PLACE, TOOK OFF HER WHITE DRESS AND QUICKLY CHANGED INTO A BLACK SWEATER AND SLACKS, LOCKED THE CAR AND, AS THEY SAY, CAREFULLY "CASING THE AREA" (TO SEE IF SHE WAS BEING FOLLOWED), CLIMBED ON A CITY BUS. TWO STOPS LATER THE VICE-CONSUL SWITCHED FROM THE BUS TO A STREETCAR, THEN "HOPPED ON" THE SUBWAY, AND ONLY AFTER THAT TOOK A TAXI.

THEN WHAT HAPPENED? THE VICE-CONSUL GOT OUT OF THE TAXI ON THE EMBANKMENT, STROLLED ALONG THE LANES OF A SHADY PARK, WAITING UNTIL THERE WAS NO ONE IN THE VICINITY, SOMEONE WHO MIGHT HAVE SET A TRAP FOR HER, AND THEN HURRIED TO THE BRIDGE, WHOSE FANTASTICAL GIRDERS BENT OVERHEAD IN THE SUMMER NIGHT. WITH A PRACTICED STEP, THE VICE-CONSUL CLIMBED THE STAIRWAY AND PLACED A ROCK IN THE RECESS OF AN ARCH -- AN ORDINARY BRICK, WHICH IN VILLAGES THEY PUT IN THE BATH IN ORDER TO HOLD THE HEAT.

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THIS IS WHERE THEY DETAINED THE VICE-CONSUL. SHE SCREAMED HEARTRENDINGLY: "I'M A FOREIGNER* WHO ARE YOU?*" I'M A FOREIGNER*"

THE VICE-CONSUL OBVIOUSLY SHOUTED SO LOUDLY IN ORDER TO WARN THE SPY WHO WAS COMING TO THE APPOINTED PLACE AT THE APPOINTED TIME IN ORDER TO TAKE THAT SAME "BRICK" WHICH HAD BEEN LEFT IN THE HOLE. THE "DIPLOMAT" TRIED TO THROW AWAY THE SPY'S PORTABLE RADIO TRANSMITTER -- AFTER ALL, A CLEAR PIECE OF EVIDENCE. SHE DID NOT SUCCEED.

THEY REMOVED THE SECRET PACKAGE, SEATED THE VICE-CONSUL IN A CAR AND TOOK HER TO THE PLACE WHERE THEY INVESTIGATE THE IDENTITY OF DETAINED PERSONS. THEY CALLED A COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY TO IDENTIFY HER.

HE IDENTIFIED HER.

IN HIS PRESENCE THEY OPENED THE SECRET PACKAGE. IN THE "BRICK" WERE THE USUAL ACCESSORIES OF THE SPY: CAMERAS,

GOLD, A QUESTIONNAIRE, MONEY, INSTRUCTIONS, IN A WORD, EVERYTHING WHICH IS USUALLY FOUND IN SUCH CASES. THERE WERE ALSO, HOWEVER, THINGS WHICH EVOKED SURPRISE: SMALL, UNDISTINGUISHED-LOOKING BLACK AMPULES. "WHAT WERE THESE?" AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF WHAT WAS IN THE SMALL BLACK AMPULES WAS PROVIDED BY A CAREFUL STUDY OF THE INSTRUCTIONS INTENDED FOR THE SPY -- THEY CONTAINED POISON.

THIS PROVOKED UNCONCEALED SURPRISE AMONG THE COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE AGENTS, WHO WERE VERY EXPERIENCED PEOPLE.

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-- "FOR WHOM WERE THESE AMPULES WITH POISON
INTENDED?" THEY ASKED THE VICE-CONSUL.

SHE REMAINED SILENT.

-- "ASK YOUR COLLEAGUE TO ANSWER OUR QUESTION" --
THEY TURNED TO THE COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY.

-- "ANSWER THE QUESTION" HE SAID, TURNING TO HIS
"VICE."

-- "SHUT UP" -- THE VICE SAID THROUGH GRITTED TEETH.

THEY LOOKED AT THE COUNSELOR, WHO THREW OUT HIS HANDS
IN DISTRESS: "THERE'S NO USE ASKING HER. SHE DOESN'T
KNOW. SHE'S JUST A COURIER (ISPOLNITEL')..."

-- "SHUT UP*" -- THIS TIME THE "ATTRACTIVE CIA-NIK"
LITERALLY BELLOWED.

IF A SIMPLE COURIER TALKS THAT WAY TO HER SUPERIOR THEN
ONE WONDERS WHO STANDS BEHIND HER? A SUPERVISOR OF
WHAT RANK?
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INCIDENTALLY, ARE THE MORAL CRITERIA OF THESE GENTLEMEN
REALLY GOOD IF THEY, LOCATED AT THE OTHER END OF THE
EARTH FROM WHERE THESE EVENTS TOOK PLACE, SENT A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WEAKER SEX TO TRANSMIT THE POISON, TO
ROAM AROUND A PARK AT NIGHT. BUT PERHAPS IT IS NOT A
QUESTION OF MORAL CRITERIA BUT OF METHODS OF INTELLIGENCE WORK? PERHAPS IN THE OPERATION WHICH WAS CARRIED
OUT, THIS YOUNG LADY WAS PUT OUT IN THE FOREGROUND, IN
ORDER TO DEFLECT AND CONFUSE COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE?
PERHAPS THE PRINCIPAL ORGANIZERS SUPPOSED THAT SUCH A
VICE-CONSUL WOULD NOT BE NOTICED, SINCE EVERY GLOBAL
OPERATION PRESUPPOSES THE PARTICIPATION OF THE HIGHEST-RANKING PROFESSIONALS -- THEY WOULD BE ATTRACTING THE
ATTENTION OF COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE...

HOWEVER, WE ARE INTERRUPTING THIS HISTORY, WHICH RESEMBLES A DETECTIVE STORY BECAUSE THE EVENTS WHICH WERE
PLAYED OUT DURING THE FOLLOWING HOURS AND DAYS DEVELOP INTO A POLITICAL CHRONICLE.

EVERYTHING DESCRIBED IS NOT THE FANTASY OF THE WRITER,
BUT A TRUE ACCOUNT. NOTHING HEREIN IS MADE UP.

THE PLACE OF THE FINAL ACTION IS THE EMBANKMENT OF THE
MOSCOW RIVER, THE BRIDGE CONNECTING LUZHNIKI WITH LENIN
HILLS. THE "ATTRACTIVE VICE-CONSUL" IS MARTHA PETERSON,
A U.S. CITIZEN AND CIA EMPLOYEE, WORKING UNDER THE
COVER OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT; THE COUNSELOR CALLED FOR
THE IDENTIFICATION IS MR. GROSS, HEAD OF THE CONSULAR
SECTION OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW.

AFTER GROSS, FOLLOWING THE IDENTIFICATION AND "DIS-
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CUSSION," TOOK PETERSON TO THE EMBASSY, THE MINISTER-COUNSELOR OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY CAME TO THE USSR
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT
WAS A SATURDAY.

THE MINISTER-COUNSELOR ASKED THE OFFICIAL ON DUTY AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY A QUESTION WHICH INDICATED THAT HE WAS AWARE NOT ONLY OF THE POLITICAL SERIOUSNESS OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED THAT NIGHT, BUT ALSO OF THE GRAVITY OF THE INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE.

"WOULD THERE BE ANY OBJECTION TO OUR RECALLING PETERSON TO THE U.S. ON THE FIRST FLIGHT TO THE WEST?" THE MINISTER-COUNSELOR ASKED.

HE WAS TOLD THAT THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTIONS, SINCE THE "VICE-CONSUL" ENJOYED DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.

"WE HOPE THAT ATTENTION WILL NOT BE DRAWN TO THIS MATTER," CONTINUED THE MINISTER-COUNSELOR.

"WE WILL CONSULT ON THIS QUESTION," HE WAS TOLD.

THE U.S. AMBASSADOR, TOON, WAS THEN CALLED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON THIS MATTER. HE WAS HANDED A PROTEST NOTE, WHICH STATED, IN PART:

ON JULY 15 OF THIS YEAR THE SOVIET COMPETENT ORGANS DETAINED U.S. EMBASSY ATTACHE' MARTHA D. PETERSON, CAUGHT RED-HANDED CARRYING OUT AN ESPIONAGE OPERATION, AT THE MOMENT OF MAKING A DROP. DURING DETENTION A PORTABLE RADIO APPARATUS WAS TAKEN FROM HER. AT THE TIME OF THE OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION, AND IN

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THE PRESENCE OF A U.S. EMBASSY COUNSELOR, A CONTAINER

BELONGING TO M. PETERSON WAS OPENED AND ESPIONAGE INSTRUCTIONS, A MINIATURE CAMERA, VARIOUS VALUABLE ITEMS, A LARGE SUM OF SOVIET MONEY, TWO RECEPTACLES OF DEADLY POISON AND SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS ON THEIR USE WERE FOUND.

THUS, IT IS QUITE EVIDENT THAT AMERICAN SPECIAL SERVICES ARE ACTIVELY CARRYING OUT SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES ON THE TERRITORY OF THE SOVIET UNION, USING FOR THESE PURPOSES THE DIPLOMATIC COVER OF OFFICIALS OF THE U.S. EMBASSY AND NOT STOPPING SHORT OF SUCH MEANS AS DEADLY POISON.

THE MINISTRY STRONGLY PROTESTS AND DECLARES EMBASSY EMPLOYEE M. PETERSON PERSONA NON GRATA.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE MINISTRY CALLS THE EMBASSY'S ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT, AS IS APPARENT FROM THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY COMPETENT ORGANS, ALSO INVOLVED IN THIS ESPIONAGE CASE WERE FIRST SECRETARY OF EMBASSY R. FULTON AND U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES S. KARPOVICH AND DZH. GRUENERT. IT IS KNOWN THAT THIS IS NOT THE ONLY TIME THAT AMERICAN DIPLOMATS

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HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES INCOMPATIBLE WITH THEIR OFFICIAL STATUS.

THE MINISTRY INSISTS THAT THE AMERICAN SIDE TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO PUT AN END TO SUCH ACTIVITY, WHICH DIRECTLY CONTRADICTS THE TASK OF THE CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

THE AMBASSADOR LISTENED TO THE READING OF THE NOTE NOT SIMPLY WITH ATTENTIVENESS; IT APPEARED THAT MR. TOON HAD NOT YET DECIDED HOW HE SHOULD REACT.

... DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE IS A SERIOUS MATTER; EACH WORD HAS ITS ENTIRELY SPECIAL VALUE, FOR EACH WORD CAN OR CANNOT BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO MISINTERPRETATION. HAD THERE BEEN LESS WEIGHTY EVIDENCE, IF AMPULES CONTAINING POISON HAD NOT LAID ON THE TABLE, THE AMBASSADOR, RELATING HIS WORDS TO THE NORMS OF DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL, WHICH EXCELLS AT ALL SORTS OF SUBTLETIES, SEEMINGLY COULD HAVE CONSTRUCTED SOMETHING SIMILAR TO A POSITIONED DEFENSE.

BUT THE INDISPUTABLE EVIDENCE FORCED THE AMBASSADOR TO SAY: I HAVE NO QUESTIONS REGARDING THAT WHICH OCCURRED LAST NIGHT, AND I CANNOT COMMENT ON ANY OF THIS.

ACTUALLY ONE NEED NOT COMMENT, FOR SOVIET COUNTER-

INTELLIGENCE ESTABLISHED INDISPUTABLY THAT THE POISONS
REMOVED FROM THE SECRET CONTAINER PASSED BY PETERSON TO
THE SPY, HAD BEEN SENT NOT FOR THE FIRST TIME BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY TO MOSCOW. IT WAS REVEALED
DURING THE INVESTIGATION THAT POISON, EARLIER PASSED TO
THE SPY, WAS USED BY HIM AGAINST AN INNOCENT PERSON WHO
STOOD IN THE WAY OF THE SPY'S CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES.

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THE QUESTION ARISES: WHO WILL ANSWER FOR THE DEATH OF
THIS PERSON? ONLY THE SPY TO WHOM PETERSON PASSED THE
POISON? OR THE CIA? AND IF SO, EXACTLY WHO IN THAT
ORGANIZATION? ACCORDING TO WHOSE INSTRUCTION, BY WHOSE
SANCTION DID A SOVIET CITIZEN DIE? IT MIGHT BE SAID
THAT BEHIND THE SPY STOOD CLERKS FROM THE CIA NOT INVOLVED
WITH POLICY, THE "HOUND-DOGS" OF INTELLIGENCE OBSESSED
WITH PROFESSIONAL HATRED TOWARD THE USSR. BUT THIS SORT
OF APPROACH CANNOT WITHSTAND CRITICISM BECAUSE PRESENTLY,
DURING THE PERIOD OF ANALYSIS OF THE CASE OF THE AMERI-
CAN SPY WHOM PETERSON INTENDED TO MEET, IT HAS BECOME
CLEAR THAT POLITICAL FIGURES ("POLITIKI") OF A HIGH RANK
GAVE THEIR BLESSING TO THE METHODS OF THEIR AGENT, IN
SENDING HIM POISONS AND WEAPONS, IN DEMANDING FROM HIM
INFORMATION IN ORDER TO TORPEDO DETENTE BY FALSIFYING
SUCH INFORMATION.

THUS THE VERSION CONCERNING "A MINOR CIA CLERK" FALLS
AWAY. AND YET JUST RECENTLY CIA DIRECTOR TURNER
ANNOUNCED IN THE U.S. CONGRESS THAT AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE
DOES NOT NOW EMPLOY POISON, THAT THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP
OF THE CIA REFRAINS FROM POLITICAL MURDERS AS A METHOD
OF "WORK," THAT NOW ALL OF THE CIA'S ACTIVITIES ARE
CARRIED OUT AT A VERY "HIGH MORAL LEVEL," "ACCORDING TO
THE LAW," SO TO SAY. HOW TO MATCH TURNER'S PUBLIC
STATEMENT WITH THE PRACTICAL WORK OF HIS AGENCY?

... MEANWHILE, PASSING ON TO THE SECOND POINT IN THE
NOTE, THE AMBASSADOR NONETHELESS ATTEMPTED TO GO ON THE
ATTACK.

-- AS CONCERNS THE OTHER PERSONS YOU HAVE NAMED, THEY

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ARE ENTIRELY UNKNOWN TO ME. I KNOW NO EMPLOYEES OF THE
STATE DEPARTMENT WITH SUCH NAMES.

BY ANSWERING IN THIS WAY, THE AMBASSADOR APPARENTLY WANTED
TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT FULTON, KARPOVICH AND GRUENER
BELONGED TO "ANOTHER AGENCY" AND HE BORE NO RESPONSIBIL-
ITY FOR THEM, ALTHOUGH KARPOVICH AND GRUENER WROTE ON
THEIR ENTRY VISAS THAT THEY WERE "STATE DEPARTMENT EMPLOY-
EES AND ARRIVED IN THE USSR FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE
EMBASSY."

THERE IS, HOWEVER, ANOTHER APPROACH: PERHAPS THE AMBASSA-
DOR ACTUALLY DID NOT KNOW WHAT KARPOVICH AND GRUENER WERE
DOING, BUT THEN IT FOLLOWS THAT THOSE PERSONS WHO PRE-
PARED THE AMBASSADOR FOR HIS VISIT TO THE MFA MISLEAD
MR. TOON.

... IN TAKING HIS LEAVE, THE AMBASSADOR SAID AFTER A
LONG PAUSE:

-- THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD APPRECIATE
IT IF ALL THAT TOOK PLACE THE NIGHT BEFORE NOT BE PUBLI-
CIZED.

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-- WE WILL BRING YOUR REQUEST TO THE ATTENTION OF OUR
GOVERNMENT, HE WAS PROMISED.

THE AMBASSADOR GAVE ASSURANCES THAT HE WOULD DO
ALL HE COULD TO SEE THAT SUCH "ANNOYING INCIDENTS" NOT
BE REPEATED IN THE FUTURE.

ASSUMING THAT A PERSON REPRESENTING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USA WOULD NOT GIVE IRRESPONSIBLE ASSURANCES, THE SOVIET SIDE DID NOT PUBLICIZE THIS CASE.

HOWEVER, IT HAS NOW BECOME CLEAR THAT THE AMERICAN SIDE HAS NOT TAKEN MEASURES TO CEASE SUCH ACTIVITIES. RATHER, OTHER MEASURES WERE TAKEN -- A SCANDAL WAS SANCTIONED CONCERNING "SOVIET ESPIONAGE." ONE CAN SEE, EVEN WITH THE NAKED EYE, THAT THE SPECTACLE ORCHESTRATED BY DIRECTORS OF THE CIA AND FBI WAS ONLY STAGED TO JUSTIFY IN THE EYES OF THEIR SUPERIORS THE FAILURES THAT TOOK PLACE IN MOSCOW. I EMPHASIZE "FAILURES," BECAUSE THE PETERSON AFFAIR WAS FAR FROM THE ONLY ONE IN A CHAIN OF INCIDENTS UNCOVERED BY SOVIET COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE.

THE PROVOCATIVE NATURE OF THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN IS TO BE SEEN FROM THE FACT THAT THE ENTIRE "OPERATION" AGAINST THE SOVIET CITIZENS ARRESTED IN NEW YORK BEGAN IN AUGUST OF 1977, THAT IS, ONE MONTH AFTER PETERSON'S EXPULSION. A NAVAL OFFICER, AN AGENT OF THE FBI, APPEARS

AS A PROSECUTION WITNESS, A MAN WHO WAS DISPATCHED IN THE CAPACITY OF A PROVOCATEUR TO SOVIET CITIZENS. CRUDE WORK, A "POLICE INTRIGUE" ("POLITSEYSHCHINA") IN ITS PUREST FORM, I WOULD SAY.

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IN THE FACE OF IRREFUTABLE FACTS EXPOSING THE CIA AND ITS AGENTS, A SORT OF THEATRICAL BUFFOONERY IS COUNTER-POSED, WHICH, UNFORTUNATELY, IS AIMED AT WORSENING SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS. THEY WANT, AS IS SAID, TO ADD FUEL TO THE FIRE OF ANTI-SOVIET HYSTERIA PRESENTLY BEING CARRIED OUT IN THE USA; THEY WANT TO FRIGHTEN US.

BUT WE ARE NOT ONES TO BE FRIGHTENED.

WHO IS TO PROFIT FROM THE NEW FOUND OF ANTI-SOVIET HYSTERIA?

NOT, I WOULD SAY, THE CAUSE OF DETENTE, AND NOT THOSE WHO THINK REALISTICALLY AND WHO KNOW THAT CONFRONTATION IS POLITICALLY DISASTEROUS. END TEXT. TOON

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